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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy

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Date: 2005

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Report No: ZJJ-57

Date of Information: Early March 1952

Date Acquired: 20 March 1952

Date of Report: 26 March 1952

Subject: TATSUJI Michi His Position and Policy

Place Acquired: Japan, Tokyo

Evaluation: C-3

Source: Former high-ranking Kappa officer in close contact with [redacted]

On 24 February 1952, HATTEI Yoshitane held an informal conference with TATSUJI Michi at the latter's home. TATSUJI extricated that he was not usually at home on Saturday and Sunday (the 24 was Sunday), from which HATTEI drew the conclusion that those were the days he reserved for consultation with Premier TONELLI Shigeru. One other caller, TSUTA Karuji, of the Demobilization Bureau, joined the conference part of the time.

2. TATSUJI stated that his association with YOSHIDA is purely personal and he visits the premier only upon invitation and never offers information unless he is asked for it. He is trying to avoid being involved in the rearmament issue; however, by answering questions of it when requested, because he feels that if TATSUJI resigns, he himself would be automatically severed from the rearmament program. He stated that therefore he was collecting information and opinion on rearmament and asking assistance from former associates and military figures, such as IKEMOTO Jo, KOBAYASHI Ichiro, MATSUMURA Seizan, and TANAKA Naohiro, and presenting these data to the army.²

3. In regard to rearmament matters generally, TATSUJI made the following remarks:

- a. Although he would like to use HATTORI Naohiro in working out a rearmament program, the very unfavorable comments on him received in letters, apparently from former officers, make it difficult.
- b. The division of navy circles on rearmament is only apparent; beneath the surface the navy is as deeply split as the army. It is, however, trying to close the rifts, which the army is not.
- c. The work on rearmament undertaken by the MATSUMURA Research Institute is of great value for interesting the public, although as a private research it is not of direct value to the government.

During the conversation, another visitor arrived at the TATSUJI's home but was escorted into another part of the house and not invited to join the conference. HATTEI believed that this caller was MATSUOKA Makoto,

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partly because he was kept out of sight. In HATTORI's opinion, TATSUJI actually uses MASAJI as the top-ranking member of his advisory staff but keeps the connection secret from his other associates.

5. Early in March, another conversation with HATTORI brought from TATSUJI a statement that one of the difficulties of his position was that contacts with some persons might start rumors of government influence. One of his problems is MASAJI Jinzaburo, former general, a native of the same town and living near TATSUJI in Tokyo. TATSUJI is greatly concerned over the attitude of MASAJI's followers. The two men are not in contact because TATSUJI hesitates to make an alliance, fearing that it would start rumors, and MASAJI will not because TATSUJI was junior to him in the service and he yourself not being consulted on military problems. A plan for resolving this delicate situation is sought by friends of both, possibly through the agency of former Lt. General SUGIMACHI Kultau, who is closely connected with MASAJI.

6. A renewal of relations with MASAJI would assist TATSUJI, both by uniting some dissident elements of the army and by giving him additional backing in rearmament matters to replace the support of the six-man committee. Even before the committee dissolved, TATSUJI had lost its sponsorship because of his opposition to an extensive departure of former regular army officers.

1. Field Comment: According to another source, TATSUJI divides his time between the KAWADE organization and government interests on a half-day basis, morning to KAWADE and afternoons to the government. See ZJL-56.

2. Field Comment: Those ex-soldiers were reported earlier as assisting TATSUJI in preparing military advice for ICHIKAWA. They make up the "No-min Line." See ZJL-77A and ZJL-77L.

3. Field Comment: It has been previously reported by the same source that, on information from HATTORI, TATSUJI is friendly with HATTORI but does not discuss rearmament with him. See ZJL-76.

4. Field Comment: HATTORI offered no basis for this conjecture otherwise. According to another source, MASAJI is associated with TATSUJI as a close personal friend and is active in the NPF. See ZJL-56.

5. Field Comment: Who in Japan states that MASAJI is from Saga-ken, but TATSUJI is referred in ZJL-56 to be from Shirane. For comments on MASAJI's activities see ZJL-34.

6. Field Comment: This board is discussed in ZJL-53 and ZJL-77L